

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) An optical switch comprising at least a light transmission portion, an optical path-changing portion and an actuator portion; wherein

the light transmission portion has a light reflecting plane provided on at least one part of a plane facing the optical path-changing portion to totally reflect light, and light transmission channels having optical wave guiding bodies and being provided in at least three directions with the light reflecting plane as a starting point;

the optical path-changing portion is provided in proximity to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion in a movable condition and has an optical path-changing member for at least diffusely reflecting or scattering light; and

the actuator portion has a mechanism that is displaced by external signals and transmits the displacement to the optical path-changing portion; characterized in that

the switching or dividing of an optical path is carried out by contacting or separating the optical path-changing portion to or from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion by displacement of the actuator portion in response to the external signals;

so as to totally reflect an input light from the light transmission channels at the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion and transmit it to a specific light transmission channel on an output side when the optical path-changing portion is separated from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion;

or take out an input light from the light transmission channel, diffusely reflect or scatter it at the optical path-changing portion, and transmit it to a specific one or

more light transmission channels on the output side when the optical path-changing portion is contacted to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical switch according to Claim 48,~~
~~wherein~~An optical switch comprising at least a light transmission portion, an optical path-changing portion and an actuator portion; wherein

the light transmission portion has a light reflecting plane provided on at least one part of a plane facing the optical path-changing portion to totally reflect light, and light transmission channels having optical wave guiding bodies and being provided in at least three directions with the light reflecting plane as a starting point;

the optical path-changing portion is provided in proximity to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion in a movable condition and has an optical path-changing member for at least reflecting or scattering light; and

the actuator portion has a mechanism that is displaced by external signals and transmits the displacement to the optical path-changing portion, the actuator portion comprising:

a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element comprising a piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer and at least one pair of electrodes arranged on one part of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer;

a vibrating member that is in contact with at least one part of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element to support the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element and that converts strain of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer into bending displacement or vibrations;

a fixing member to fix at least one part of the vibrating member so as to vibrate the vibrating member; and

a displacement transmission member that is arranged between the optical path-changing portion and the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element-based on needs, and transmits displacement of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element to the optical path-changing portion; wherein

the switching or dividing of an optical path is carried out by contacting or

separating the optical path-changing portion to or from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion by displacement of the actuator portion in response to the external signals;

so as to totally reflect an input light from the light transmission channels at the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion and transmit it to a specific light transmission channel on an output side when the optical path-changing portion is separated from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion;

or take out an input light from the light transmission channel, reflect or scatter it at the optical path-changing portion, and transmit it to a specific one or more light transmission channels on the output side when the optical path-changing portion is contacted to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion.

50. (Previously Presented) The optical switch according to Claim 49, wherein a ceramic substrate is constituted by unitarily firing the vibrating member and the fixing member, and a recessed portion or a hollow portion is formed in the ceramic substrate with giving the vibrating member a thin structure.

51. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 49, wherein the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element comprises a laminated body in which an anode layer having linking multiple layers functioning as anodes and a cathode layer having linking multiple layers functioning as cathodes are alternately laminated with a ceramic piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer being ~~put~~positioned therebetween.

52. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, wherein the light transmission portion comprises two or more layers having different light refractive indexes.

53. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, wherein the light transmission channels of the light transmission portion comprise optical waveguides.

54. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, wherein the light transmission portion is configured by joining at least two optical wave guiding bodies to one optical wave guiding body so as to form light transmission channels into at least three directions, with the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion as a starting point.

55. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, ~~wherein a focusing~~further comprising a condenser lens or a collimator lens is arranged at each of a plurality of light-signal input ends and/or light-signal output ends of the light transmission portion, and light signals are input and output through the ~~focusing~~condenser lens or the collimator lens.

56. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, wherein the optical path-changing portion has a light introduction member made of a transparent material.

57. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, wherein the optical path-changing portion has a light reflector for specularly reflecting light.

58. (Previously Presented) The optical switch according to Claim 57, wherein the light reflector for specularly reflecting light is a light reflecting film that is integrally formed on a plane of the light introduction member on the side of the displacement transmission member.

59. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 4849, wherein the optical path-changing portion has a light reflector for diffusely reflecting light or a light scattering body for scattering light.

60. (Currently Amended) The optical switch according to Claim 48⁴⁹, wherein the optical path-changing portion is constituted only by a light reflector for diffusely reflecting light or a light scattering body for scattering light.

61. (Currently Amended) A multichannel optical switch provided with a plurality of optical switches each comprising at least a light transmission portion, an optical path-changing portion and an actuator portion; characterized in that

the light transmission portion has a light reflecting plane provided on at least one part of a plane facing the optical path-changing portion to totally reflect light, and light transmission channels having optical wave guiding bodies and being provided in at least three directions with the light reflecting plane as a starting point;

the optical path-changing portion is provided in proximity to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion in a movable condition and has an optical path-changing member for at least reflecting or scattering light; and

the actuator portion has a mechanism that is displaced by external signals and transmits the displacement to the optical path-changing portion; wherein the actuator portion further comprises:

a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element having a piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer and at least one pair of electrodes arranged on one part of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer;

a vibrating member that is in contact with at least one part of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element to support the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element and that converts strain of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer into bending displacement or vibrations;

a fixing member to fix at least one part of the vibrating member so as to vibrate the vibrating member; and

a displacement transmission member that is arranged between the optical path-changing portion and the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element and transmits displacement of the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element to the optical path-changing portion; wherein

_____the switching or dividing of an optical path is carried out by contacting or separating the optical path-changing portion to or from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion by displacement of the actuator portion in response to the external signals;

so as to totally reflect an input light from the light transmission channels at the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion and transmit it to a specific light transmission channel on an output side when the optical path-changing portion is separated from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion;

or take out an input light from the light transmission channel, reflect or scatter it at the optical path-changing portion, and transmit it to a specific one or more light transmission channels on the output side when the optical path-changing portion is contacted to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion.

62. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein each light transmission channel in a plurality of optical switches is formed of a single light transmission portion.

63. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 62, wherein each light transmission channel in a plurality of optical switches is crossed to each other and shares a part of each light transmission channel.

64. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein one input-side channel is linked to one output-side channel in series as for each optical switch; and light that is input from an input end of optical switches, is switched at each optical path-changing portion of a plurality of optical switches.

65. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein a plurality of optical switches are constituted by at least one optical switch having a plurality of input-side channels and at least one optical switch having a plurality of output-side channels, and one input-side channel is linked to one output-

side channel between adjacent optical switches, switching the light input from input ends of a plurality of optical switches at the optical path-changing portion of the plurality of optical switches.

66. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein a plurality of optical switches link one input-side channel to one output-side channel between adjacent optical switches by means of an optical fiber, switching at least the light input from input ends in an optical switch at each optical path-changing portion of a plurality of optical switches.

67. (Currently Amended) A multichannel optical switch ~~in which~~comprising a plurality of the multichannel switches according to Claim 64 ~~are~~ arranged in a row.

68. (Currently Amended) A multichannel optical switch ~~in which~~comprising a plurality of the multichannel switches according to Claim 65 ~~are~~ arranged in a row.

69. (Currently Amended) A multichannel optical switch ~~in which~~comprising a plurality of the multichannel switches according to Claim 66 ~~are~~ arranged in a row.

70. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch comprising a plurality of the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 64; wherein each multichannel optical switch is arranged by locating at least one part of output ends themselves of each light transmission channel in each multichannel optical switch in an arc condition with an input end in an outer light transmission channel, which is disposed separately from each multichannel optical switch, at a center.

71. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch comprising a plurality of the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 65; wherein each multichannel optical switch is arranged by locating at least one part of output ends themselves of each light transmission channel in each multichannel optical switch in

an arc condition with an input end in an outer light transmission channel, which is disposed separately from each multichannel optical switch, at a center.

72. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch comprising a plurality of the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 66; wherein each multichannel optical switch is arranged by locating at least one part of output ends themselves of each light transmission channel in each multichannel optical switch in an arc condition with an input end in an outer light transmission channel, which is disposed separately from each multichannel optical switch, at a center.

73. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which an optical divider or an optical coupler is joined to a light-signal input end or a light-signal output end of each light transmission channel in the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 67 to branch or collect at least one part of the light transmission channel.

74. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which an optical divider or an optical coupler is joined to a light-signal input end or a light-signal output end of each light transmission channel in the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 68 to branch or collect at least one part of the light transmission channel.

75. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which an optical divider or an optical coupler is joined to a light-signal input end or a light-signal output end of each light transmission channel in the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 69 to branch or collect at least one part of the light transmission channel.

76. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which an optical demultiplexer filter or an optical multiplexer is joined to a light-signal input end or a

light-signal output end of each light transmission channel in the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 67 to branch or collect at least one part of the light transmission channel.

77. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which an optical demultiplexer filter or an optical multiplexer is joined to a light-signal input end or a light-signal output end of each light transmission channel in the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 68 to branch or collect at least one part of the light transmission channel.

78. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which an optical demultiplexer filter or an optical multiplexer is joined to a light-signal input end or a light-signal output end of each light transmission channel in the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 69 to branch or collect at least one part of the light transmission channel.

79. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which each output end or each input end of a plurality of the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 64 is linked to a plurality of input ends or output ends in at least another multichannel optical switch.

80. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which each output end or each input end of a plurality of the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 65 is linked to a plurality of input ends or output ends in at least another multichannel optical switch.

81. (Previously Presented) A multichannel optical switch in which each output end or each input end of a plurality of the multichannel optical switches according to Claim 66 is linked to a plurality of input ends or output ends in at least another multichannel optical switch.

82. (Cancelled)

83. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 8261, wherein a substrate of ceramics is constituted by unitarily sintering the vibrating member and the fixing member, and that a recessed portion or a hollow portion is formed in the substrate with giving the vibrating member a thin structure.

84. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 8261, wherein the piezoelectric/electrostrictive element comprises a laminated body in which an anode layer of linking multiple layers as anodes and a cathode layer of linking multiple layers as cathodes are alternately laminated with a ceramic piezoelectric/electrostrictive layer being ~~put~~positioned therebetween.

85. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein the light transmission portion is configured by joining at least two optical wave guiding bodies to one optical wave guiding body so as to form light transmission channels into at least three directions, with the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion as a starting point.

86. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, ~~wherein a focusing~~further comprising a condenser lens or a collimator lens is arranged at each of a plurality of input ends and/or output ends of the light transmission portion, and light signals are input and output through the ~~focusing~~condenser lens or the collimator lens.

87. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein the light transmission portion comprises two or more layers having different light refractive indexes.

88. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein a light transmission channel comprising an optical wave guiding body is formed at one part of the light transmission portions.

89. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein the optical path-changing portion has a light introduction member made of a transparent material.

90. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein the optical path-changing portion has a light reflector for specularly reflecting light.

91. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 90, wherein the light reflector for specularly reflecting light is a light reflecting film that is integrally formed on a plane of the light introduction member on the side of the displacement transmission member.

92. (Cancelled).

93. (Currently Amended) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61~~95~~, wherein the optical path-changing portion is constituted only by a light reflector for diffusely reflecting light or a light scattering body for scattering light.

94. (Previously Presented) The multichannel optical switch according to Claim 61, wherein each optical path-changing portion has a light reflector, and at least two kinds of specular reflection angles are shared among the optical path-changing portions.

95. (New) A multichannel optical switch provided with a plurality of optical switches each of which comprising at least a light transmission portion, an optical

path-changing portion and an actuator portion; characterized in that

the light transmission portion has a light reflecting plane provided on at least one part of a plane facing the optical path-changing portion to totally reflect light, and light transmission channels having optical wave guiding bodies and being provided in at least three directions with the light reflecting plane as a starting point;

the optical path-changing portion is provided in proximity to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion in a movable condition and has an optical path-changing member for at least diffusely reflecting or scattering light; and

the actuator portion has a mechanism that is displaced by external signals and transmits the displacement to the optical path-changing portion; wherein

the switching or dividing of an optical path is carried out by contacting or separating the optical path-changing portion to or from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion by displacement of the actuator portion in response to the external signals;

so as to totally reflect an input light from the light transmission channels at the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion and transmit it to a specific light transmission channel on an output side when the optical path-changing portion is separated from the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion;

or take out an input light from the light transmission channel, diffusely reflect or scatter it at the optical path-changing portion, and transmit it to a specific one or more light transmission channels on the output side when the optical path-changing portion is contacted to the light reflecting plane of the light transmission portion.